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HARVARD UNIVERSITY



**LIBRARY OF THE
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF EDUCATION**

THE
CONSTITUTION
OF THE
NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH
OF THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY
FOR
EDUCATING PIOUS YOUTH FOR THE GOS-
PEL MINISTRY;
WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR BENEFICIARIES;
DIRECTIONS FOR AGENTS;
AND AN
ADDRESS
TO THE
CHRISTIAN PUBLICK.

MIDDLEBURY:
PRINTED BY COPELAND AND ALLEN.
1820.



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1820

PREFATORY NOTICE.

The following is a brief account of the origin of this Society. In consequence of previous consultation, six ecclesiastical bodies, in the immediate vicinity of each other, appointed delegates at their respective meetings in the spring of 1819, to meet in joint committee ; and consider the expediency of attempting to form a society in this region, for the purpose of aiding indigent pious young men in obtaining a suitable education for the Gospel Ministry ; and, if the attempt should be thought expedient, to take such measures as might appear to them best calculated to effect the desired object.

In pursuance of the design of this appointment, and agreeably to previous notice of the time and place, a meeting was holden at Benson, June 29, 1819 ; consisting of the following gentlemen : viz.

Rev. John Griswold,	} <i>Delegates from the Southwest Consociation.</i>
Joel Hamilton, Esq.	
Col. Stephen Martindale,	
Ebenezer Wilcox, Esq.	} <i>Addison Consociation.</i>
Rev. Daniel O. Morton,	
Seth Storrs, Esq.	} <i>Royalton Association.</i>
Rev. Elijah Lyman,	
Rev. Justin Parsons,	} <i>Pawlet Association.</i>
Rev. Nathaniel Hall,	
Rev. William Jackson,	} <i>Rutland Association.</i>
Rev. Elihu Smith,	
Rev. Rufus Cushman,	} <i>Addison Association.</i>
Rev. Joshua Bates,	
Rev. Thomas A. Merrill,	

After due consideration, it was unanimously resolved by the joint committee ; "That it is expedient to attempt the formation of a society in this region, as a Branch of the *American Society for educating Pious Youth for the Gospel*

Ministry, agreeably to the provisions of the thirteenth article of the Constitution of that Society."—The reasons, which induced the joint-committee to propose a union with that Society, are in their view important. Experience has shown, that a great society, by attracting public notice, concentrating individual exertion, and diffusing general information, will accomplish much more, than several unconnected associations, occupying the same ground. Beside, the provision for such a union, made in the Constitution of the American Society, is perfectly equal and liberal; leaving to each Branch the power of appropriating its own funds, as far as proper subjects can be found within its limits; and pledging assistance to any, whose resources shall be inadequate to their exigences.

In accordance with this resolution, a constitution was prepared and proposed to the religious publick; and a circular letter sent out with it, inviting those gentlemen, who should approve of the object and subscribe the constitution to meet at Castleton on the 2d day of February 1820, for the purpose of organizing the Society.

CONSTITUTION,

[As altered and adopted at the time of organizing the Society.]

Highly approving of the benevolent object of "The American Society for educating Pious Youth for the Gospel Ministry;" and desirous of co-operating in this labour of love, we, whose names are underwritten, hereby form an Association, by the name of *The North Western Branch of the American Society for educating Pious Youth for the Gospel Ministry*; and adopt the following Constitution:

ARTICLE I.

Any person in the state of Vermont, or its vicinity, may become a member of this Society, by subscribing the constitution, and engaging to pay annually a sum not less than *one dollar*; and continue to be a member, as long as he shall pay this annual subscription: or any person who shall subscribe and pay, at one time, a sum not less than *ten dollars*, shall be a member for life.

ARTICLE II.

The officers of the Society shall be a President, two or more Vice Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Board of

Directors, an Executive Committee, one or more Traveling Agents, and in each town where the interests of the Society can be promoted, two or more Local Agents. These officers, except the Executive Committee and the Agents, shall be chosen annually, at the stated annual meeting of the Society.

ARTICLE III.

The Board of Directors shall be composed of the President, the Secretary, and nine or more other gentlemen.—The Directors shall hold two stated meetings in a year; the *first* immediately after their election, at the time and place of the annual meeting of the Society; and the *second* on the day preceding the next following annual meeting of the Society, at the place of that meeting. They may likewise continue their first stated meeting by adjournment; or the President may call a special meeting of the Board, by causing particular notice of the time and place to be given to each Director. Five members of the Board shall be requisite to constitute a quorum for business.

It shall be the duty of the Directors at their *first* meeting, to appoint an Executive Committee from their own number (the Chairman of which Committee shall be the Corresponding Secretary of the Society;) and give them such directions, in addition to the provisions of the Constitution, as may be deemed expedient. At their *second* meeting, it shall be their business to examine the proceedings of the Executive Committee, and the statement of the Treasurer; and prepare their annual report to the Society.

ARTICLE IV.

The *Executive Committee* shall consist of three persons, appointed by the Board of Directors; till this Society shall be regularly acknowledged, as a Branch of "the American Society for educating Pious Youth for the Gospel Ministry," agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution of that Society. After such acknowledgement by the Directors of that Society, one member of this committee will of course be appointed by them. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to examine candidates for the charity of the Society; and make appropriations to such as are duly admitted, as beneficiaries, according to the provisions of the Constitution, and the instructions of the Directors.

They shall likewise have authority to appoint Travelling Agents, whenever the interests of the Society shall require it; and designate Local Agents either directly, or by Travelling Agents.

For the purpose of examining candidates, making appropriations to beneficiaries, &c. the Executive Committee shall hold quarterly meetings on the first Wednesday in January, April, July and October, at 2 o'clock, P. M. and shall meet at such other times as they may find convenient and necessary.

Finally, it shall be the duty of the Executive Committee, at the close of their official year, to prepare a detailed report of their transactions, and the state and prospects of the Society; which report they shall present to the Board of Directors at their meeting, on the day preceding the annual meeting of the Society.

ARTICLE V.

The Board of Directors or the Executive Committee, may draw orders on the Treasurer, to defray the incidental expenses of the Society. No officers of the Society however, except Travelling Agents, shall receive any pecuniary reward for their services.

ARTICLE VI.

It shall be the duty of the *Local Agents*, (whose term of office shall continue from year to year, as long as they shall promote the interests of the Society) in each town respectively, to consult together; and, in the manner they shall judge most expedient, endeavour to procure subscriptions, donations and contributions to the funds of the Society; or to organize auxiliary societies, both male and female. It shall especially be the duty of the Local Agents to encourage an annual contribution on the first Sabbath of January, for the funds of the Society, in the several religious societies of every denomination of Christians, in their respective towns; to receive the avails of such contributions; and, in the course of the same month, to collect the sums subscribed by the members and donors and transmit the money thus collected to the Treasurer of the Society, at the annual meeting, or previously, if convenient. It shall likewise be their duty to transmit the names of the subscribers, with the sums paid, against their names, to the Secretary;

that he may be able to make a distinct record of the members and donors in each town. And, if in any place, a church or society or an individual person shall undertake to educate one or more pious young men for the Ministry, the Local Agents in that place may state to the Secretary the annual sum appropriated for this purpose, that the fact may be included in the annual report of the Directors: Provided such young men shall have been examined and approved by the Executive Committee; and shall annually present satisfactory certificates from their instructors, agreeably to the constitution.

ARTICLE VII.

Any Church or Auxiliary Society may send to the annual meeting, one delegate for every ten dollars contributed, in money or necessities, toward the support of an approved beneficiary.

The President of any Auxiliary Society, which contributes annually *one hundred dollars* shall be an honorary Vice President of this Society; and all gentlemen, who make a donation of one hundred dollars; or who at one payment, increase their original subscription to that sum, shall be honorary Vice Presidents.

ARTICLE VIII.

Any indigent young man of hopeful piety, exemplary character and respectable talents (with whatever denomination of Christians connected) may be a candidate for the charity of this Society. None however, shall be admitted as a *beneficiary*, without personal examination by the Executive Committee. Nor shall any one be admitted to examination, who is not fifteen years of age; and who has not devoted at least three months to classical studies, with a qualified instructor.

Every applicant shall likewise be required to exhibit to the Executive Committee, at the time of his examination, unequivocal testimonials, from three or more serious and respectable persons, best acquainted with him; stating his age place of residence, and need of assistance; declaring their views of his moral and religious character, talents and learning; and certifying their belief, that it is his serious desire to devote his life to the Gospel Ministry.

Every approved beneficiary, whether in an Academy, at a College, or with a private instructor, in any stage of his education, upon application to the Executive Committee, shall receive quarterly some assistance. No one, however, shall receive more than is deemed sufficient, with economy, personal exertion, and the aid of his friends, to enable him to pursue his studies without embarrassment. Every application to the Executive Committee for assistance, must be accompanied with a statement of expenses, and a certificate from the instructor of the beneficiary, testifying that he continues to sustain in all respects, the character which the constitution requires.

ARTICLE IX.

If any person, who has been assisted by this Society, shall not devote himself to the Gospel Ministry, he shall, within a reasonable time, refund the sum expended for his education, with lawful interest; whenever required by the Directors.

ARTICLE X.

There shall be an annual meeting of the Society on the first Wednesday in February, at 10 o'clock, A. M. The place of holding each annual meeting, shall be designated by vote of the Society, at the meeting preceding. At each of these meetings a sermon or an address shall be delivered before the Society.

ARTICLE XI.

The Constitution may be altered by a majority of the subscribers, present at the first meeting for the organization of the Society; which shall be holden at Castleton, on the first Wednesday of February, 1820. But, after that period, no alteration shall be made without the concurrence of two thirds of the members present.

THE MEETING FOR ORGANIZATION

Was accordingly holden by subscribers to the preceding constitution, at the time and place, proposed in the circular. After an appropriate discourse by the Rev. Thomas A. Merrill, the following gentlemen were duly elected, to fill the respective offices of the Society the current year.

PRESIDENT,

HON. RICHARD SKINNER.

VICE PRESIDENTS,

Hon. Chauncy Langdon,	Hon. Zebulon R. Shipherd,
Hon. Charles Marsh,	Gen. Samuel Strong,
Rev. Samuel Austin, D. D.	Chas. K. Williams, Esq.
Hon. Pliny Moore,	Titus Hutchinson, Esq.
Gen. Abner Forbes,	Hon. John H. Cotton,
Hon. William Hall,	Hon. Joseph D. Farnsworth,

JOSEPH BURR, Esq. Vice President for life, agreeably to a provision in the eleventh article of the Constitution.

DIRECTORS,

Rev. Joshua Bates, D. D.	Rev. Jonathan Nyë,
Rev. Daniel Haskel,	Rev. Thomas A. Merrill,
Rev. Heman Ball, D. D.	Rev. William Jackson,
Rev. Elijah Lyman,	Rev. Walter Chapin,
Rev. Chester Wright,	Rev. Jedediah Bushnell,
Rev. Abraham Brownson,	Hon. William Slade, Jun.

William Page, Esq. *Secretary.*

Ira Stewart, Esq. *Treasurer.*

Voted,—That the thanks of the Society be presented to Joseph Burr, Esq. and Wait Rathbone, Esq. for their liberal donations to the funds :

That the first annual meeting of the Society be holden at Woodstock, North Parish, on the First Wednesday in February, 1821, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

That the Rev. Joshua Bates, D. D. be requested to deliver a sermon on the first annual meeting ; and that the Rev. Chester Wright be his substitute :

That the thanks of the Society be presented to the inhabitants of Castleton for their hospitality in entertaining the members of the Society :

B

That the thanks of the Society be presented to the choir of singers in Castleton, for their appropriate musick, for organization.

FIRST MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS.

The Directors of the N. W. B. Education Society convened at Castleton, on the first Wednesday of February, 1820, immediately after their election, pursuant to the provision of the Constitution.—Present, the Rev. Joshua Bates, D. D. Rev. Heman Ball, D. D. Rev. Elijah Lyman, Rev. Jonathan Nye, Rev. Thomas A. Merrill, Rev. William Jackson, Rev. Walter Chapin, Rev. Jedediah Bushnell, Hon. William Slade, Jun. and William Page, Esq.

The President being absent, the Rev. Elijah Lyman was appointed Chairman, and William Page, Esq. Secretary of the Board.

Voted,—That the Executive Committee be instructed to request the Treasurer to give bonds, with sureties, to them by name, for the faithful application of the funds of the Society.

Voted,—That the Executive Committee do not allow to any beneficiary, more than twenty dollars a quarter, except in extraordinary cases; and that they reduce their grants below that sum, in all cases, where the beneficiaries or their friends are able to afford partial assistance, according to the circumstances of each case.

Voted,—That the Executive Committee recommend to the beneficiaries, in each stage of their education, to employ, at least, two hours in a day, in productive labour, as far as they have opportunity; with a view, both to aid them in defraying the expenses of their education, and to promote vigorous health.

Voted,—That the Executive Committee be instructed, publicly to request all the officers and members of the Society, to exercise a guardian care over the beneficiaries, within their observation respectively; and to give information to the Executive Committee of any failure in character, deficiency in study, or want of prudence and economy, which they may observe in any young man under the patronage of this Society.

On motion, proceeded to the choice of the Executive Committee, for the current year. The following gentlemen were chosen, viz :

Rev. Joshua Bates, D. D.

Rev. Thomas A. Merrill,

Rev. Walter Chapin.

Voted,—That the Executive Committee be requested to prepare an address to the publick, respecting the concerns of the Society ; and cause it to be published.

Voted,—That the Board convene on the day previous to the next stated meeting of the Society at 4 o'clock, P. M., at the Rev. Mr. Chapin's in Woodstock.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee owe an apology to the members of the Society, for their delay in publishing an address, agreeably to the instructions of the Directors. It was early intimated to them, that some of the friends of the Society in the eastern part of the State were desirous of forming a separate Society. Indeed, it was represented to the Committee, from a highly respectable source, that the benevolent object of the Association, would probably be best effected, by the operation of two distinct societies in the State ; or by such an alteration in the Constitution, as to provide for two separate Executive Committees with two Treasurers, under the same Board of Directors. But, which of the courses it would be thought expedient to adopt, the Committee could not ascertain. Of course, they felt themselves obliged to delay their publication, lest they should interfere with arrangements which might be made on the subject. We are now authorized to state, however, that a separate Society will probably be organized in the course of the season, adopting the same general principles and pursuing the same general object with this. Of course, it will be found expedient to change the place, designated for the first annual meeting. Due notice of this change of place will accordingly be given, after consultation with the Directors.

The Executive Committee feel justified in recommending to the Agents of this Society, who can more conveniently act for the Society about to be formed, to pay their collections into the Treasury of that Society ; and make

their returns to its executive officers. Indeed, no precise limits can be assigned to either Society. Nor, since both are designed to promote the same object, and since they are intended to co-operate in this work of love, with perfect harmony, would it be desirable to fix on limits, which might subject some contributors to inconvenience. The direction of donations and the attachment of Auxiliaries will therefore be left to be determined at pleasure, as local situation, facility of communication, and other circumstances of convenience may dictate.

But, although the Executive Committee have been obliged to delay their publication, they have not been inattentive to the business and interests of the Society. Beside the stated quarterly meetings, they have held special meetings at Castleton, Middlebury, Randolph and Montpelier. At these meetings the following candidates for the charity of the Society have been examined and approved, as

BENEFICIARIES:

	<i>Native place</i>	<i>Place of study.</i>
Sylvester Ellis,	Roxbury	Royalton Academy.
William Pitt Atwater,	Castleton	Castleton Academy.
Solomon K. Guernsey,	do.	do.
Lyman Gilbert, patronized and supported by the Congregational church in Middlebury		
Calvin Butler,	Stockholm, N. Y.	Middlebury Acady.
Henry Hunter,	Madrid, N. Y.	New-Haven.
Ferris Fitch,	Pawlet,	Middlebury Acady.
James Bates,	Randolph,	Dartmouth College.
Fry Bailey Reed,	Brookfield,	Randolph Acady.
Bazaleel Smith,	Randolph,	do.
Isaac Cummings.	Thetford,	Thetford Acady.
Joel Fisk,	Waitsfield,	Montpelier Acady.
Harry Slater,	Essex,	do.
Myrtis Ball,	Underhill,	do.
Warren Swift,	Fairfax,	do.
Asahel C. Washburn,	Montpelier.	do.
Elisha Hawes,	Brookfield,	do.
Henry Boynton,	Cornwall,	Middlebury Acady.
John E. Edgerton,	Moriah, N. Y.	do.
Ralza Morse,	Dorset,	Castleton Academy.
Cyrus Hudson,	do.	do.

DIRECTIONS FOR BENEFICIARIES.

I. As the Executive Committee are bound carefully to observe the Constitution in appropriating the funds of the Society ; it is necessary, that those, who apply for assistance, should attend to its requisitions.

1. They must be hopefully pious, of exemplary character and respectable talents ; must be devoted to the Gospel Ministry, and must need assistance.

2. They must be, at least, fifteen years of age ; and must have devoted, at least, three months to classical studies.

3. They must make personal application to the Executive Committee for examination ; and bring with them unequivocal testimonials, concerning their characters, &c. from three or more serious and respectable persons, best acquainted with them and their circumstances.

II. To those, who have been examined and admitted, as Beneficiaries, the Executive committee suggest the following considerations and rules.

1. It should be remembered, that every Beneficiary, during his whole course of study, is on probation ; and, that any failure in character, in industry, or economy, would be inconsistent with his continuing to enjoy the patronage of this benevolent Association.

2. It should never be forgotten, that it is the design of this Society, not to give a full support to its Beneficiaries ; but simply to afford them such assistance, as will enable them to pursue their studies without discouragement, and obtain an education without embarrassment. They are accordingly, expected to procure all the assistance, which they can, from their friends—to teach a school, if practicable, three months in a year—to devote at least two hours a day to productive labour, whenever they can find opportunity—to avoid all unnecessary expense, in dress, in books, in travelling, &c—And in general, to endeavour by active exertion and rigid economy, to diminish their need of assistance from the funds of the Society.

3. As often as any Beneficiary finds it necessary to apply for assistance (whether once a quarter or less frequently) he must make a written application to the Executive Committee. This communication must contain a particular statement of his expenses and of his present necessities, It must be accompanied with a certificate, signed by his

principal instructor, substantiating the statement and recommending the applicant, as worthy of continued patronage.

4. Whenever grants are made to Beneficiaries by the Executive Committee, a general order is immediately put into the hands of the Treasurer; so that any individual Beneficiary may obtain his grant, by a draft on the Treasurer, or by a personal application at his office.

5. Though the Executive Committee permit every Beneficiary to pursue his studies at any literary institution, or in any place, where he and his friends think it most expedient for him to reside; yet it is always expected that, in making his selection, strict regard will be paid to economy, so far as it can be done consistently with his obtaining good instruction. Nor should any Beneficiary remove from one institution to another, without giving the Executive Committee previous notice of his intention.

6. No Beneficiary should apply to any other charitable society for assistance, while under the patronage of this. Nor will any grant be made by the Executive Committee of this society to any person, while under the patronage of another. Indeed, this measure seems necessary, to prevent a misapplication of the funds of this benevolent Association.

7. Should any Beneficiary of this Society relinquish the pursuit of his education, or his intention of spending his life in the work of the Gospel Ministry; he will be expected to give immediate notice of this relinquishment to the Executive Committee, and as soon as he is able, to refund the monies, which he shall have drawn from the treasury of the Society.

LOCAL AGENTS.

On the zeal and activity of this class of officers must the success of the Society very much depend. It is, therefore, devoutly to be hoped, that the gentlemen who have been requested, or who may hereafter be requested, to act as Local Agents, will be zealously affected in this work of benevolence; and, by the various methods suggested in the Constitution, and by such other means, as they can devise, will endeavour to increase the funds and enlarge the resources of the Society. The sixth article of the Constitution contains all necessary instructions. The Executive Commit-

tee deem it proper, however, to remind the Local Agents of the importance of making their returns to the Treasurer with punctuality and precision.* The subscriptions and donations should, as far as practicable, be collected within the time prescribed ; and the name of each subscriber and donor carefully returned, when the payment is made to the Treasurer.

The Executive Committee hope, that the Local Agents will lose no opportunity of communicating information to their townsmen on the subject of this Association. By lending this pamphlet from house to house, by causing the address of the Directors to be read in social meetings, and by conversing often on the design, the importance, and the progress of the Society, they may do much to awaken the sensibility of the benevolent, and dispose them, by contributing to its funds, to honour the Lord with their substance. Especially should these measures be adopted by the Local Agents, toward the close of the year ; when they are about to call for the annual contributions and solicit donations ; and when the annual publick contribution is about to be made. It is, indeed, confidently expected that this annual contribution, on the first Sabbath in January, will become general. It was commenced the last year in a number of congregations, with the singular success, that should the Local Agents universally encourage it, holy emulation might be excited, productive of extensively happy effects. This measure should not, indeed, be suffered to exclude others, such as soliciting donations from the annual subscribers, forming auxiliary societies, &c. But when every other method of increasing the funds of the Society has been pursued with zeal and perseverance, there will be room for a resort to this. In every congregation there are many, who cannot become members of this Society, who nevertheless are able and willing to do something to promote so good a cause. Such persons should have an opportunity to gratify their benevolent feelings. And what opportunity can be more suitable for the purpose, than the one which may be presented on the first Sabbath in the year ; when the appropriate reflec-

* It is desirable, that a particular statement of monies paid into the Treasury, at the meeting for organization, should likewise be made out and handed to the Treasurer, at the annual meeting, to assist the Committee in preparing an appendix to the Annual Report.

tions of the season are calculated to solemnize the mind and soften the heart—when the shortness and uncertainty of life appear in solemn contrast with the certainty of death and the endless duration of eternity—when every devout christian is inclined to form new resolutions of holy obedience, and is ready to make some new sacrifices to promote the glory of his Redeemer—when, in a word, all, who possess any thing of the spirit of true benevolence, are disposed to do good, and regard the force of the injunction, “what thou doest do quickly?”—Let this measure, then, be earnestly recommended by the Local Agents ; and let every man, woman and child, have opportunity to contribute their dollar, or dime, or cent, as each has been prospered by the Lord. Let not the day of small things be despised. Let not even the widow’s mite be excluded from the sacred treasury. But let the fragments, which remain, be gathered up, that nothing be lost !

To *Rev. Ly Lester Sage*
GENTLEMEN,

You are hereby requested to act as
Local Agents of the N. W. B. Education Society, in the
town of *Hortonville E. Pa.*

J. A. Munnice } *Ex. Committee.*

TRAVELLING AGENTS.

To

SIR—You are hereby appointed a Travelling Agent
of the N. W. B. Education Society in the County of
for the term of

weeks ; for which service, when performed, you will receive the usual pay for Missionary labour.—In towns, where there are Local Agents, you will deem it proper to consult with them, concerning the measures to be adopted, in order to accomplish most effectually the great object of your Agency.—The monies, which you collect, whether by publick contribution, donation, or annual subscription, you will transmit to the Treasurer, with a particular statement

of the names of the donors, the respective places of their residence, &c. The names of subscribers, who do not make immediate payment, you will return to the Local Agents. In towns, where there are no Local Agents appointed, you are desired after consultation, to take the names of two or three suitable persons for the office, and transmit them to

} *Ex. Committee.*

SPECIAL AGENTS.

A few articles of clothing have been sent to the Treasurer of the Society; and it has been intimated to the Executive Committee, that much might be done in this way, to furnish clothing for the young men, under the patronage of the Society, if proper measures were adopted, to encourage pious females to manufacture articles of wearing apparel and bedding for this benevolent purpose. But it may easily be perceived, that neither the Treasurer, nor the Executive Committee, could consistently attend to the details of a business so complicated; while the Beneficiaries are residing, as they necessarily will be, at different literary institutions; some of which are far removed from the seat of operation. At once, therefore, to avoid this inconvenience, and secure the assistance of all, who are disposed to aid the Society in clothing and boarding Beneficiaries; the Executive Committee have resolved, that it is expedient to appoint Special Agents, near the several literary institutions, where the Beneficiaries of the Society will probably pursue their studies; and request them to superintend this part of the business of the Society. With this view the following gentlemen have been designated, as Special Agents, for the Beneficiaries, who may be at the Colleges and Academies, in their respective towns, viz:

Rev. Leonard Worcester,	}	<i>Peacham.</i>
Hon. John W. Chandler, and the Preceptor of the Academy,		
Rev. Asa Burton, D. D.	}	<i>Thetford.</i>
Hon. J. P. Buckingham, and the Preceptor of the Academy,		

Rev. Henry P. Strong, Horace Janes, Esq. and the Preceptor of the Academy,	<i>St. Albans.</i>
Rev. Chester Wright, Doct. A. Crosby, and the Preceptor of the Academy,	<i>Montpelier.</i>
Prof. Olds, Prof. Hubbell, and Rev. Daniel Haskel,	<i>Burlington.</i>
Prof. Hall, Prof. Hough, and Doct. W. G. Hooker,	<i>Middlebury.</i>
Rev. Tilton Eastman, Capt. Timothy Edson, and the Preceptor of the Academy,	<i>Randolph.</i>
Rev. Ebenezer Halpen, Deac. Jacob Safford, and the Preceptor of the Academy,	<i>Royalton.</i>
Rev. Daniel O. Morton, Mr. Samuel Hunt, and the Preceptor of the Academy,	<i>Shoreham.</i>
Rev. Elihu Smith, Deac. Enos Merrill, and the Preceptor of the Academy,	<i>Castleton.</i>
Rev. Ralph Robinson, Hon. Zebulon R. Shipherd, and the Preceptor of the Academy,	<i>Granville, N. Y.</i>
Rev. John Griswold, Mr. Dorastus Fitch, and the Preceptor of the Academy,	<i>Pawlet.</i>
Rev. Ebenezer Hebard, John Conant, Esq. and the Preceptor of the Academy,	<i>Brandon.</i>
Rev. Aaron Leeland, Deac. Sargeant, and the Preceptor of the Academy,*	<i>Chester.</i>

To any of these gentlemen, as it may be found conven-

* If there are any other literary institutions in operation, within the limits of the Society, Special Agents may hereafter be appointed in connexion with them. Should the Special Agents in a place, where there are no Beneficiaries, receive donations for the Society, they are requested to give the Executive Committee immediate information, that a transfer of them may be made to other Agents.

ient, those persons, who wish to promote the object of the Society, may direct articles of clothing, or produce which can be used in boarding Beneficiaries. Or persons, in the immediate vicinity of these literary institutions, may effect the same benevolent purpose, by engaging to the Special Agents, to give a few weeks board, or by furnishing lucrative employment for the leisure hours of Beneficiaries.

To

GENTLEMEN,—The Executive Committee have taken the liberty to appoint you, Special Agents of the N. W. B. Education Society in the town of _____ and they hereby request you to receive, and according to your best judgement, to appropriate to the Beneficiaries of the Society, at the literary institution in your town, any articles which may be committed to your care, for that purpose.* With this view, you are requested to give such notice of your acceptance of this agency, and take such measures to execute it through the towns in your vicinity, as you may think expedient. You are requested, likewise, to keep a particular account of donations received, with the names of the donors; to appropriate these donations to the Beneficiaries, according to their exigences; and at least, once a year, to transmit to the Executive Committee a statement of your receipts and appropriations. You are also requested to assist the Beneficiaries, in finding opportunities for profitable labour, and in procuring cheap, or gratuitous board.

In this way you may greatly promote the interests of the Society, and confer a favour on

} *Ex. Committee.*

* N. B. Should the contemplated new Society in the eastern part of the State be formed; and should Beneficiaries of both Societies be at the same literary institutions, the Special Agents may appropriate to them all without distinction, and make returns to the Executive officers of each Society respectively.

ADDRESS . .

TO THE FRIENDS OF RELIGION ;

RECOMMENDING TO THEIR NOTICE AND PATRONAGE THE
"NORTH WESTERN BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY
FOR EDUCATING PIOUS YOUTH FOR THE GOSPEL
MINISTRY."

BRETHREN AND FRIENDS,

The Executive Committee, in the name of the Board of Directors, earnestly solicit your attention to the Constitution of this Society ; and ask your assistance and co-operation in accomplishing the object, which it contemplates. The object is surely important ; and the claims, which it makes on the pious and liberal, are peculiarly urgent. Other benevolent objects are not indeed to be neglected. The claims of other charitable societies are not to be disregarded ; on the contrary, every effort to advance the cause of truth and righteousness ; every attempt to propagate the Gospel and disseminate "the word of life ;" every association, which has for its object, the enlargement of the church, the salvation of man, and the glory of God, should be encouraged ; and will be encouraged by all, who love the Redeemer and the cause for which he died on the cross. We, therefore, behold with joy, and contemplate with pleasing anticipations, the rising interests and extending influence of our Bible Societies, and Missionary Associations, both Foreign and Domestick. But, if we mistake not, the branch of christian charity, which this society is intended to promote, has peculiar claims to immediate attention ; because it has hitherto been comparatively neglected ; and because, without it, every other effort to advance the Redeemer's kingdom must ultimately fail of success. Without pastors and teachers, what will become of our churches ; and without missionaries, what can our Missionary Societies accomplish ! "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. But how can they hear without a preacher ; and how can they preach, except they be sent ?"

It would seem, that no enlightened mind could fail of perceiving the importance of the object of this Association, nor any benevolent heart, of feeling interested at the view. To show this importance, no laboured arguments, no minute statements, no tedious calculations are necessary. The object must commend itself immediately to every well informed christian. Documents are before the publick, facts have been again and again stated, and estimates often made, which abundantly prove the necessity of united and vigorous exertions, to raise up pastors for our churches, and missionaries for heathen lands. It has, indeed, long been known to those, who have taken an extensive view of the spiritual exigencies of our own country, that there was a great deficiency of able and faithful ministers of the gospel, in these United States; especially, in our new settlements in the southern and western sections of the country. In many places a disposition to receive the gospel of Christ, and attend on its sanctifying ordinances, has been seen; while comparatively few could be found, qualified to preach this gospel and administer these ordinances. A voice has been heard from the East and from the West, from the North and from the South, like that from Macedonia; "Come over and help us;" while a very limited number only were prepared to obey this pressing and heart-rending call. The great difficulty, which our missionary societies have had to encounter, was that of obtaining a sufficient number of well qualified missionaries.—This general deficiency, we observe, has been long known and felt. But recent enquiries and calculations have thrown new light on the subject—have proved, that many thousand ministers and missionaries are now wanted; and that they would, if they could be obtained, find immediate employment and support, either in building up the waste places of Zion, or establishing churches in the wilderness, or propagating the gospel in foreign countries.

To exhibit to our brethren, who may not have paid particular attention to the subject, a concise view of the deficiency of well educated ministers in our own country, we give a short extract from the third Report of the Directors of the parent Society.—"In all calculations," say the Directors, "which have been recently made on the subject, it has been common to allow that the country would be proper-

ly supplied, if there were one educated minister to every thousand souls. That there should be at least this number, will appear reasonable, when we reflect that in England and Wales, with a population of 10,150,615, there are 10,434 clergymen of the established church; while the dissenting ministers are supposed to be even more numerous than those of the establishment. If only one half of these were estimated to possess competent qualifications, there would be more than one to 1000 souls.

"In 1753, there was in New England on an average, one liberally educated minister to every 628 souls. When we say then, that there should be, in the United States, one minister to 1000 souls, we only claim that the country should be supplied a little more than half as well as New England was actually supplied, within the memory of many now upon the stage.

"The United States contain about 9,000,000 inhabitants. At the rate of one minister to 1000 souls, this population requires 9000 ministers. Let us now see what is the actual number.

"To avoid misapprehension, the Directors wish two things to be kept in mind. One is, that while the College Catalogues are taken as the only basis of accurate calculation, the estimate of competent ministers includes, as will be seen, a large number, not educated at Colleges, who are supposed to have acquired, in some other way, sufficient learning to be safe interpreters of the Bible. The other is, that this estimate has no respect whatever to difference of religious denomination.

"From the triennial catalogues of the following Colleges, viz. Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Dartmouth, Union, Brown, Middlebury, Williams, Bowdoin, Columbia, Carlisle, South Carolina, Transylvania, and William and Mary, it appears that only 1465 settled ministers, alumni of these colleges, are now alive. It will be perceived that this calculation stops at the year 1810: as from the nature of these documents, it can never be brought up to the present time. The University of North Carolina has furnished a few ministers; though one of its officers speaks of the number as very small. The Colleges at Brunswick, N. J. and Hampden Sydney College, Virginia, have very meritoriously struggled against great difficulties; and have each furnish-

ed the church with a number of respectable ministers; but we have no official documents from either. Washington and Jefferson Colleges in Pennsylvania, and Washington College in Virginia, were more recently established. No catalogues, and no other means of exact information have been obtained from any of these. It will not be deemed essential, that we should pursue these statements into an exact account of Colleges lately established. Indeed the object of these statements does not require, that they should be perfectly exact. Hundreds more of ministers might be reckoned, without any considerable change in the principles of reasoning, or in the result.

"Of These 1465 ministers educated in the above named American Colleges, probably there may be as many superannuated and infirm, as ought to be reckoned for the number educated in foreign countries and now resident among us. But to make a liberal allowance for this latter class, some of whom are highly respectable, let 135 more be added, making a total of 1600 educated ministers.

"With respect to the number of ministers, who have not received the advantages of collegial instruction, but who may yet be considered as competently educated, we have no means of exact information. Probably, however, the pious and intelligent of every denomination, will be satisfied, that it would be a large estimate to consider them one half as numerous as those who have been publicly educated; that is, to reckon them at 800. But place the estimate at 900; and then the whole number of competent religious teachers in the United States of all denominations, will be 2500, and the deficiency 6500."

This general statement and calculation is followed, in the Report, by a statistical view of the several portions of the United States, proving its accuracy. But the present deficiency of ministers in our country is not the only alarming fact, connected with the subject. For it is abundantly evident, that this deficiency has, for many years, been constantly and almost regularly increasing; and it may be seen at once, that the rapid increase of our population, without some efficient means to increase the number of educated ministers, must place every succeeding generation in a situation still more deplorable. Speaking of the particular view, exhibited in the Report already quoted, the Directors add. "This

is a gloomy picture ; but there is one view in which it is still more gloomy. If the people of the United States are now in this condition, what is to become of their posterity ? When we call to mind that 70 years ago, New England was supplied with one collegially educated minister for every 628 souls, and that now, in the United States, there is not one such minister to 6000 souls ; when we remember that this rapid degeneracy has been regular in its progress, that the great causes which produced it are every year becoming more powerful and extensive in their operations ; and when we add to all this, that the great mass of the community are not awake to the danger ;—with what apprehensions must we look toward the generations that are to come.

“Statements founded upon our College catalogues, prove that, in respect to the number of our educated ministers, we are far behind our fathers. But when we carry the result of these statements forward, and calculate the effect of continued degeneracy upon future times, an awful prospect opens before us. From these catalogues it appears, that for a hundred years after the settlement of this country, viz: from 1620 to 1720, more than half of all the graduates of our Colleges were ministers. During the next period of 50 years, that is, from 1720 to 1770, only one out of 3 engaged in the ministry ; and during the period of 40 years next following, that is, from 1770 to 1810, only one out of 5 engaged in the ministry. From 1800 to 1810, only one out of 6. Let it here be observed, that the number of graduates has not increased in proportion as the population of the country, so that the decrease of collegially educated ministers, compared with the population of the United States, has been even greater than in the proportion of the numbers 1-2, 1-3, 1-5.”

“According to the ablest treatises on the principles of population, supposing the average quality of land, and the general means of sustenance to be as good in the United States as in Massachusetts, the inhabitants of our country, may be expected to increase in much the same ratio as heretofore for a century to come. In other words, the population will not be checked, by pressing on the means of support, till our territory shall generally be as populous on an average, as Massachusetts Proper.

“Let us then consider our present number of competent

ministers to be 2,500 and our population 9 millions, and taking the ratio of increase for both, as furnished by past years, look forward to the year 1925, a little more than a century hence. Two hundred and twenty four millions of people will then be scattered over our vast territory, seventy to each mile, a population about as dense as that of Massachusetts Proper, and as the average of all Europe. Of these 224 millions, 209 millions, (a population greater than that of Europe,) will be destitute of competent religious teachers."

This view of our situation and prospects is surely alarming; but it is not more alarming than true. Should nothing be done to check the progress of degeneracy, our children of the third and fourth generations will inevitably experience "a famine of the word of life." The inquiry, therefore, of every christian patriot—of every true philanthropist, must be, "what can be done? how can the present deficiency be supplied? how, at least, can the increase of the evil be prevented?"—It may be said, that a general knowledge of the fact, that ministers in such numbers are needed, will induce many pious parents, who are able to meet the expense, to educate their pious sons for the work of the ministry. We sincerely hope, that this will be done—that many will dedicate their Samuels and their Timothys to the service of the temple, and train them up in the school of the prophets. But after all, that can reasonably be expected from personal effort, the number of educated ministers will remain altogether inadequate to the increasing exigences of our churches. Something must be done, or the present deficiency will never be supplied. Indeed, there is every reason to apprehend, that the evil will continue to grow upon us, unless the aid of religious charity can be called in, and the combined resources of benevolence put in operation, to check its progress. Something, indeed, has recently been done for this purpose. The State of Vermont, we believe, has the honour of originating the plan of an organized society, for the express purpose of aiding indigent pious young men, in obtaining an education for the gospel ministry. The "Evangelical Society," &c. was formed March 6, 1804; and our churches are now reaping the fruit of its benevolent exertions. Since that period other local associations have risen up, and laboured with vari-

ous success in the cause. But still they have all been limited in the extent of their operations ; and have effectually proved, that small, detached societies, however disinterested in their views, and however zealous in their labours, can do but little to excite publick attention to the best of causes. It remained for the American Education Society, which was formed about five years ago, to commence its operations, upon a plan, sufficiently liberal and extensive, to accord with the magnitude of the object. That Society, considering the date of its existence, has accomplished much. When the last annual report of its Directors was published, no less than 219 beneficiaries had been assisted by its funds. May we not, therefore, confidently expect, that, by its direct influence and the co-operation of its branches, the great work, thus happily commenced, will be carried on with increasing vigour and success ? It is true, the enterprize is great ; and it requires a mighty effort. Every portion of the country must be made to feel its importance. Christians must be universally roused from their slumbers, and induced to take an active part in this labour of love. We believe, however, that the effort will be made, and the enterprize accomplished. We trust that the vine, thus planted in the rich soil of New England, will take deep root, and extend its branches far and wide ; furnishing fruit for the inhabitants of the whole land, and imparting an occasional cluster for distant nations. We most sincerely hope, that the *Branch*, which hangs over our mountains, will not wither before the northern blasts, nor decay for want of nourishment ; but that it will live, and flourish, and bear its full proportion of healthful fruit.

In this region there is no deficiency of proper candidates for the charity of the Society. Already, in the course of six months, have the Executive Committee examined and received twenty one Beneficiaries ; and others are now pursuing studies, preparatory for examination. Probably no portion of the country, according to our population, could furnish a larger number of suitable candidates for this pious charity, than may be found in this State and its vicinity. God, in his providence, and by his grace, has raised up these pious youth, and placed them before us ; and thus seemed to say to those, who love Zion, "take these young men, and educate them for me."—But, it may be ask-

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2, where are the means for the accomplishment of this great work ? Where are the resources, which are to furnish the necessary assistance to those pious young men among us, who are ready to devote themselves to study preparatory for the work of the ministry ? Probably we shall not be able to educate all, who might be found qualified for assistance, and inclined to devote themselves to the sacred service. But, though we should fail of accomplishing all, that we desire ; we may, and if we are not unfaithful to our Lord, we shall do much. Let every one do what he consistently can in this work ; and the effect will exceed the highest anticipations—the result will be glorious.

The resources, on which the Society principally depends for funds, are the following :

1. *Members*, who will pay an annual subscription of one dollar each. The number of such subscriptions, obtained before the organization of the Society, amounted in some towns to twenty, or thirty, or even forty. If the Local Agents give all, who are disposed to join the Society, an opportunity to subscribe, may not this number be annually increased ? Few christians among us, it is believed, can satisfy themselves, by giving less than a dollar annually, for the promotion of so good a cause.

2. *Life Subscribers*.—Every year will bring forward many, who may consistently place themselves on this list ; and and at once add largely to the funds of the Society. The precise number of life subscribers, already obtained, cannot now be ascertained ; because the returns of many of the Local Agents have not yet been made. The subscriptions of more than thirty, however, were paid into the treasury, at the time of organization ; five of which, amounting to \$50, were paid by one man, to constitute five of his children, members for life.

3. *Donations*.—These may be obtained from gentlemen, who cannot devote sufficient time and attention to the object, to become active members of the Society ; and from others, who will be disposed occasionally to add to their life-subscriptions, or to increase their stated annual payments, as the Lord shall have prospered them.—Omitting the example, which has been set, of subscribing \$100 ; and which it is hoped, will not long remain a solitary instance ; we are happy in being able to state, that among the members for

life, already obtained, some have subscribed *fifteen, twenty, twenty-five*, and one even *seventy-five* dollars. We may add, some of these have engaged to make an annual donation, beside their first payment.—Under this head we may include legacies or bequests, which it is not unreasonable to expect from the rich, especially those, who have few or no children to inherit the property, of which the Lord hath made them stewards. Should any such, however, in making their Last Wills, remember this benevolent object; they should be reminded, that as the Society is not incorporated, their legacies must be given, in trust, to individuals by name.

4. *Auxiliary Societies*.—These may embrace persons of different ages and both sexes; or they may be confined to those of a particular age and sex, as peculiar circumstances dictate. The Agents in each town will be able to judge, whether it is expedient to attempt the formation of such auxiliary societies, or whether the object can be most conveniently and most effectually promoted, by some or all of the other means proposed.

5. *Publick Contributions*.—From this resource, if the practice recommended in the Constitution should become general, much may be expected. Suppose, in every worshipping assembly, within the limits of this Society, the subject should be proposed and properly urged, on the last Sabbath in each year, and a contribution appointed for the next succeeding Sabbath, would not a permanent and increasing revenue to the Society be the certain result? In the congregations, to which this measure was proposed the last winter, the sums collected varied from *forty* down to less than *four dollars*. The average sum of all the contributions, however, which have been paid into the treasury, is \$11,47. Now should this measure be adopted in a hundred congregations the next winter, and the average remain the same, more than *eleven hundred dollars* would be collected at once. And might we not hope, that the influence of example extending from society to society, and from town to town, would annually increase even this large amount?—Let the experiment be made. Let the **FIRST SABBATH** in the year be distinguished by this united act of christian munificence, as well as by the peculiar solemnities of its devotional services. Let every member of every family, on that holy day, bring his gift to the altar; and,

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though "his left hand know not what his right hand doeth," let him cheerfully cast his offering into the sacred treasury.

6. *Resolutions of Churches*, to furnish the necessary means of support for some selected Beneficiary. Though this measure will not directly add to the funds of the Society; yet it will effectually aid in accomplishing the object, for which the Society was instituted: and where it is pursued according to the provisions of the Constitution, it may be attended with the happiest consequences, both to the churches themselves, and to the youth whom they thus aid by their charities and their prayers.—We are happy in being able to state, that already one young man, under the patronage of the church to which he belongs, has been examined and approved by the Executive Committee; and we learn with pleasure, that another has been selected by a church in this vicinity, who is now pursuing classical studies preparatory for examination. The language of these examples to their sister churches is; "Go ye and do likewise."

7. *Clothing and Board for Beneficiaries*.—From this resource the Society may receive essential aid. Every article of clothing and every week's board, furnished for a Beneficiary, at any of our literary institutions, will diminish the sum, to be drawn for him, from the treasury. Pious females may render a highly important service to the cause, by devoting a portion of their time to labour, for this purpose. Like "the wise hearted women" of old, who "did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun" to Moses for the Tabernacle; these sisters in the church may thus help their brethren, who are building the spiritual house of the Lord.—Manufacturers of cloth, hats, shoes, &c. who have a disposition to promote the object of the Society, may conveniently do it, by appropriating a portion of the fruit of their labour to this purpose. Produce likewise, committed to the care of the Special Agents, will directly or indirectly furnish board for the Beneficiaries.—We may add, at the higher institutions, beds or stoves, to be loaned by the Special Agents to Beneficiaries, would be extremely useful; and if given for this purpose, would essentially aid the cause of the Society.

These are the principal resources, on which the Society depends, at present, for funds; others, perhaps, may hereafter be devised. But, if these alone should be immediately

opened, to their full extent, would they not be sufficient to accomplish a work, which would cause our wilderness to blossom, like the rose; and the desolate places of our land to rejoice and be glad? A moment's calculation will convince any reflecting mind, that a hundred pious young men might be constantly supported, in a course of education, by this Branch-Society alone, if the publick attention could be properly excited and steadily directed to the subject.—And we are confident, that a *hundred* will be placed on our list of Beneficiaries, within two years from the time of organizing the Society, if the resources for their support should not fail.

Christian Brethren and Friends,

Be entreated to meditate on the subject of this address; review the facts and estimates, which it contains; and make this infant Society an object of your prayers, of your counsels, and of your charities. Let every one seriously inquire, and faithfully decide for himself, what he ought to do—what he can consistently do—what it is the will of God, that he should do, in this work of christian philanthropy.—Do any hesitate? Do any feel inclined to dismiss the subject without a decision—without resolving to stand in their lot and act their part? Let them pause. Let them think again. Before they turn away their hearts and their hands from this benevolent object, let each one seriously expostulate with himself, and chide his sluggish soul; “Am I a christian—do I love the Redeemer—have I experienced the joy of the redeemed,—and shall I—can I remain unconcerned for those, who are perishing for lack of vision? Can I sit down with cold indifference, and fold my arms in selfish indolence; while thousands and tens of thousands of my fellow men—bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh, are destitute of the means of grace—living in darkness and dying in sin!”—We are confident, that all, who possess any thing of the benevolent spirit of Christ, while this subject is before them, will feel—will pray—will resolve to do what they can, for the salvation of those, who are made of the same blood and inherit the same immortal nature with themselves—for whom the heavens bowed; and the son of God laboured, and suffered, and died.

Christians, what we do for this Society, will constitute a part, and perhaps no inconsiderable part, of that great

system of benevolent operations, which is to extend the benign influence of Christianity through the earth, and usher in the millennial glory of the church. Let us therefore, under the influence and direction of Heavenly Wisdom, proceed to the work with zeal and alacrity. Let us begin and persevere in the name and strength of the Lord Jehovah. While we "pray the Lord of the harvest, to send forth labourers into his harvest," let our actions accord with the spirit of this prayer—let us freely contribute of our substance, and cheerfully devote a portion of our time, to accomplish the object of our Association. Let us never relax our exertions, till a pious and learned minister shall be furnished for every thousand souls in our country, and a competent number of qualified missionaries for every heathen land—till we see verified in fact, what the beloved apostle saw in prophetick vision, "an angel flying through the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel, to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people."

Brethren, this work is the Lord's, and he will cause it to prosper. "Wherefore be strong and of good courage, and do it. Fear not, nor be dismayed; for the Lord, even our God, will be with you. He will not fail you, nor forsake you; until ye have finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord."

Signed by direction of the Executive Committee.

JOSHUA BATES, *Chairman.*

Middlebury, Aug. 1, 1820.

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